



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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SECNAV INSTRUCTION 5430.79C

From: Secretary of the Navy

Subj: NAVAL OCEANOGRAPHY POLICY, RELATIONSHIPS, AND
RESPONSIBILITIES

Ref: (a) United States Navy Regulations, 1990
(b) SECNAVINST 5430.20D

1. Purpose. To provide Naval Oceanography-related policy and objectives, to establish organizational relationships, and to assign responsibilities for Naval Oceanography.

2. Supersession. SECNAV Instruction 5430.79B.

3. Introduction. Reference (a) defines the Department of the Navy (DON) organization and assigns responsibility for research, development, and acquisition, including oceanography and closely related matters, to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition) (ASN(RD&A)). Reference (b) assigns the Chief of Naval Research (CNR) as the DON science and technology executive through ASN(RD&A). CNR responsibilities include the assessment, promotion, and coordination of naval basic research, applied research and advanced technology development with regards to oceanography. Within the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), the Oceanographer of the Navy implements the CNO responsibilities with regard to operational oceanography and performs functions relating to external interfaces with national and international operational oceanographic organizations and bodies.

4. Definition. Naval Oceanography encompasses the areas of Meteorology, Oceanography, Geospatial Information, and Services (GI&S), and Precise Time and Astrometry (PTA) under the sponsorship of the CNO. Naval Oceanography also includes the ocean science and technology program under the sponsorship of CNR and the various programs under other sponsors generally related to activities such as ocean engineering, deep ocean technology, deep submergence operations, salvage, diving, diving biomedicine, and environmental

satellites. Ocean science and technology is defined to include oceanic, atmospheric, and space environment-related portions of the DON Basic Research (6.1) Program, Applied Research (6.2) Program, and Advanced Development (6.3) Program.

5. Statement of Policy. The basic policy of DON with respect to Naval Oceanography is to provide the oceanographic information and the related oceanographic technological base necessary for the Department of Defense to fulfill its assigned mission.

6. Objectives

a. Primary. To advance the military application of oceanographic knowledge and technology by:

(1) Advancing and applying knowledge of the atmosphere, space weather, the oceans, the ocean floor, and coastal areas to enhance the effectiveness of fleet operations and weapon systems.

(2) Providing direct support during the design, development, and testing of military weapons, sensors, and platforms.

b. Secondary. To provide ancillary benefits to other national efforts by:

(1) Advancing knowledge of the atmosphere, space weather, the oceans, the ocean floor, and the coastal areas for economic, social, scientific, and political gains.

(2) Cooperating in national and international programs and projects that contribute to Naval Oceanography.

(3) Participating in national and international oceanographic activities and programs that relate to Naval Oceanography.

7. Special Provisions. The following points form the basis for DON actions related to oceanography:

a. National defense takes priority over other goals.

b. Oceanographic efforts must be responsive to military requirements.

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c. DON recognizes its position of leadership in and its obligation to support related non-military national objectives.

d. In order to meet national, military, and other requirements, DON must maintain an independent, comprehensive, and responsive Naval Oceanography effort. This effort includes surveys, research, application and development, and adequate supporting ships, instrumentation, facilities, and development of personnel.

e. A large portion of the oceanographic information of interest to DON is not classified. DON encourages and cooperates in the continued mutual exchange of appropriate unclassified oceanographic data and knowledge with and among national and international organizations for DON and national benefit.

f. Consistent with its own established oceanographic effort, DON will cooperate with national organizations which attempt to provide a national focus to describe, understand, and predict space weather and atmospheric and oceanographic phenomena, and will coordinate with all military departments to promote interoperability and avoid duplication in space weather, and atmospheric and oceanographic requirements.

8. Responsibilities and Relationships

a. Within CNO, the Oceanographer of the Navy will:

(1) Manage and coordinate the DON operational oceanography program.

(2) Serve as the Naval Deputy to the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(3) Act for the Secretary of the Navy, through the ASN(RD&A) and CNO in national, international and interagency operational oceanography matters.

(4) Compile and maintain a descriptive Naval Oceanography program summary in coordination with CNR and other appropriate program sponsors.

b. CNR will:

(1) Manage and coordinate the DON ocean science and technology program.

(2) Collaborate with the Oceanographer of the Navy and other appropriate program sponsors on ocean science and technology requirements and projects.

(3) Ensure appropriate ocean science and technology programs are conducted to support naval warfare capabilities, weapon systems development, and fleet safety.

9. Action

a. The CNO (through the Oceanographer of the Navy) and CNR shall ensure that the operational oceanography and ocean science and technology programs are balanced, appropriately integrated, and responsive to the needs of DON, and that they make maximum use of available assets and fulfill DON objectives.

b. Program sponsors within DON who do not report to the Oceanographer of the Navy or CNR shall keep the Oceanographer of the Navy and/or CNR informed of those aspects of their programs which contribute to, or are impacted by, Naval Oceanography as defined in paragraph 4 of this instruction.

c. The CNO shall issue the necessary directives to implement the provisions of this instruction.

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